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ABSTRACT

The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) was created within the Idaho Department of Labor to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. The IRP is an accessible organization that listens to local problems and collaborates to develop systemwide solutions. The board of directors and general membership include representatives from profit and nonprofit organizations; local, regional, state, federal, and tribal governments; and at-large representatives. Using work groups of IRP members and current technology for delivery, IRP supports communities with new products, training, and information. The IRP believes in empowering rural communities, businesses, and individuals to help themselves and make their own decisions. This decennial report lists the 2001 board of directors and past board members, and briefly recounts the organization's history. The bulk of the report consists of brief descriptions of the tasks completed in the past decade. Accompanying each description is information on partners, outcomes, and IRP's role. Tasks are grouped under the headings of capacity-building leadership projects, publications, information technology, timber value-added, collaborative projects, growth and distress issues, conferences, and facilitations. The report concludes with a financial statement for 2000, the 2001 budget, 2000 member organizations, and the 2001 IRP calendar. (TD)

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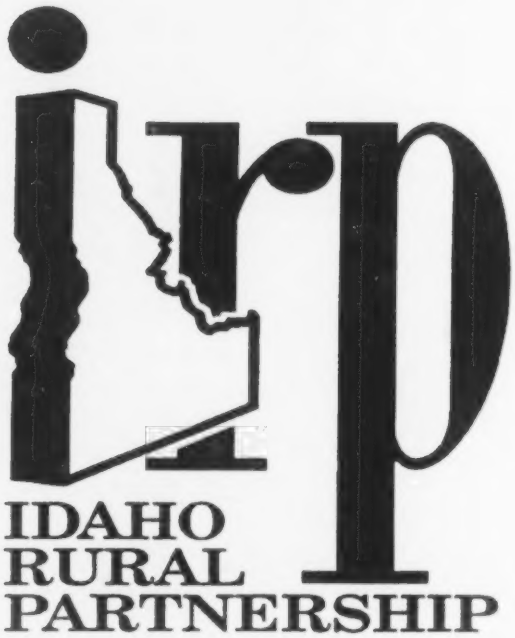
1991 - 2000

ED 456 004

10 YEARS OF RURAL PARTNERSHIPS



IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP

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IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP
317 W. Main Street Boise, Idaho 83735 (208) 334-6113 FAX (208) 334-6118 In State (800) 334-3195

Chair Gary Gillespie
Vice Chair Lorraine Roach
Executive Director Richard L. Ga

Dear IRP Members:

The Year 2000 marked another successful year for IRP under Chair Tom Hudson's leadership. It included conducting a series of workshops on the very important topic of farmland preservation with Idaho's RC&Ds, American Farmland Trust, Cooperative Extension, and Idaho Smart Growth. Conferences like the industry-supported Connect Idaho Conference on high-speed telecommunications promote a statewide dialogue between private sector providers, state regulators, and rural community interests.

In the policy arena, we helped staff Governor Kempthorne's Task Force on Rural Development. Our regional push for economic revitalization, the Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy is developing nicely and was featured at our Spring Community Forums. At the national level, Tom Hudson represented IRP before a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Revitalization, chaired by our own Senator Larry Craig. That hearing resulted in the National Rural Development Partnership Act of 2000 introduced by Senator Craig with 30 co-sponsors. The bill will be re-introduced in the 2001 Congress.

Beyond our annual list of accomplishments, we thought that this report should be something special. No, that doesn't mean break out the expensive coated paper; that's not IRP's style. What it means is that we've taken a little extra time to review our history, think about the dozens of good folks who have served on our Board, and remember the many wonderful successes we have had over the years.

IRP has truly covered the State of Idaho, offering free information in user-friendly formats, providing training opportunities that challenge our thinking in positive ways, and creating networking environments where people can connect and find ways to work together.

Our first decade marks the end of an era for IRP. Our executive director and founding father Dr. Dick Gardner is moving on. Dick will be sorely missed, but the principles of including all players, identifying common goals, working creatively across agency boundaries, and sharing decision making authority with a group still stand and are shared by many. Please take a few minutes to remember how IRP has positively impacted life in your part of rural Idaho. Please share that opinion with all your friends and elected officials in rural Idaho.

Working for Rural Idaho

Gary Gillespie
2001 IRP Chair & HUD Senior Community Builder

MISSION

The Idaho Rural Partnership joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.

IRP ORGANIZATIONAL VISION

IRP is widely known and valued as an accessible organization that listens to local problems and collaborates to develop system-wide solutions. IRP has a diverse Board of Directors and general membership that includes all rural perspectives and carries information to and from local communities. It is recognized as a safe place to resolve conflicts, work on issues, and come together on opportunities. Using affiliated work groups of IRP members and current technology for delivery, IRP supports communities with new products, trainings, information, and streamlined regulation. IRP is known as an action-oriented network that anticipates issues and works behind the scenes to benefit rural Idaho.

CHALLENGE AREAS FOR RURAL IDAHO

- Overcoming geographic and cultural isolation
- Strengthening community leadership
- Restructuring the rural economy
- Resolving natural resource utilization questions
- Improving rural infrastructure
- Improving lifelong rural educational opportunities
- Providing rural health care

PERSPECTIVES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Members bring differing views of what rural development means.

- Economic Development (jobs & income)
- Natural Resource Management
- Human Service Provision
- Infrastructure Financing (loan & grant programs, project-oriented)
- Local Public Administration

2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

		Expiration of Term
	■ Private for Profit Representatives	
Past-Chair	Tom Hudson, Tom Hudson Co., Moscow	December 31, 2002
	Nancy Bergman, Bechtel BWXT Idaho	December 31, 2003
	Jeff Wirtzfeld, Qwest	December 31, 2003
	■ Private Non-Profit Representatives	
Vice-Chair	Lorraine Roach, Grangeville Economic Management Team	December 31, 2002
	Gynii Gilliam, Challis Chamber of C & Challis Arts Council	December 31, 2003
	Tony Varilone, Soda Springs Econ. Dev. Committee	December 31, 2003
	■ Tribal Government Representative	
	Kay Kidder, Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai	December 31, 2002
	■ Local/Regional Government Representatives	
	Wayne Brower, Bingham County Commissioner, Blackfoot	December 31, 2002
	Joe Herring, Region IV Development Association	December 31, 2002
	Ken Harward, Executive Director, Assn. of ID Cities	December 31, 2001
	Paul Calverly, Southwest Idaho RC&D, Meridian	December 31, 2001
	■ State Government Representatives	
	Senator Shawn Keough, Sandpoint	December 31, 2002
	Senator Skip Brandt, Kooskia	December 31, 2002
	Representative Douglas Jones, Filer	December 31, 2002
	Representative Mary Lou Shepard, Wallace	December 31, 2002
Treasurer	Roger Madsen, Idaho Department of Labor	December 31, 2002
	Pat Takasugi, Idaho Department of Agriculture	December 31, 2002
	Karl Tueller, Idaho Department of Commerce	December 31, 2001
	■ Governor's Representative	
	John McGee, Office of Governor Kempthorne	December 31, 2002
	■ Federal Government Representatives	
Observer	Daryl Moser, Acting, USDA-Rural Development	December 31, 2003
	Lynn McKee, US Environmental Protection Agency	December 31, 2001
Chair	Gary Gillespie, US Housing and Urban Development	December 31, 2002
	■ At-Large Representatives	
Secretary	Julie Thomas, Sawtooth Nat'l Forest & Midsnake RC&D	December 31, 2001
	Carl Rey, Hot Springs Ranch & Camas Civic Organization	December 31, 2001
	Charles Rountree, Idaho Transportation Department	December 31, 2001
	■ Past-Chair Representative	
	Held by existing Board member Tom Hudson	December 31, 2001

IRP PAST BOARD MEMBERS 1992-2000

Representative's Name	*Organization's Name*	*Year*
Ames, Al	Economic Development Administration	1993-1996
Allen, Donna	Washington County Economic Development Commission,	1998
Anderson, Trudy	Division of Vocational Education	1993-1994
Barclay, Pat	Idaho Council on Industry & Environment	1999-2000
Bergdoll, Thomas	U.S. Small Business Administration	1992-1993
Branch, Ric	Idaho Senate, Midvale	1997-2000
Broncheau, Richard D	Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai	1997-2000
Carlson, Herb	Idaho Department of Agriculture	1995
Chambers, Robert	Idaho State University	1993-1994
Chatburn, John	Office of the Governor	1996-1998
Choate, Phil (1998 Chair)	Idaho Economic Development Association	1993-1999
Christensen, Tom (1992-93 Chair)	USDA, Soil Conservation Service	1991-1994
Clark, Trent (1997 Chair)	Monsanto Corporation Solutia Company, Soda Springs	1994-1998
Cundick, Lynn	US West	1998
Eilers, Lewis	Idaho Dairymen's Association, Twin Falls	1997-2000
Field, Mike	USDA, Farmers Home Administration	1991-1992
Fuentes Humberto	Idaho Migrant Council, Inc.	1993-1997
Gardner, Dick	State of Idaho Division of Financial Management	1992
Hahn, Rich	Idaho Power Company	1993
Hartung, Mary	Office of the Governor	1995
Hawkins, Jim	Idaho Department of Commerce	1992
Hogland, Connie	Neighborhood Housing Services	1998
Hubler, Sharon	Idaho Foundation for Parks and Land	1994-1995
Jarocki, William	Association of Idaho Cities	1992
King, Jack	Shoshone County Commissioner, Kellogg	1997-1999
King-Barrutia, Robbi	Idaho Senate, Glenns Ferry	1997-2000
Kirby, Daryl	Bonners Ferry City Council & Private Business	1999
Knight, Margot (1996 Chair)	Idaho Commission on the Arts	1992-1997
Kolar, Arlene	Boise County Clerk	1993
Law, Ron	Bear Lake County Commissioner	1993-1994
Luft, LeRoy	USDA, Cooperative Extension System	1992-1994

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Maben, Sue	The Idaho Company	1993
McDonald, Scott	Idaho Economic Development Association	1993, 1995-1997
Miller, Ruben	Wood River RC&D	1995-1998
Moffett, Barrett	Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee	1993-1994
Nelson Greg (1994 Chair)	Idaho Department of Agriculture	1992-1995
Nelson, Loren	USDA, Rural Economic & Community Development	1994-2000
Nordwall, Paul	Caribou National Forest, Pocatello	1997
Prescott, Roy	Jerome County Commissioner	1995-1996
Przybilla, Jim (1995 Chair)	Idaho Rural Health Education Center	1992-1996
Summers, Jeff	Idaho Economic Development Association	1992
Takasugi, Pat	Idaho Department of Agriculture	1996-2000
Tortorelli, Joe	Washington Water Power Company	1993-1996
Ward, Everett "Buck"	Wood River RC&D	1992-1995
Watson, Larry	Representative, Wallace	1997-1998
Winn, Dick	Division of Vocational Education	1995
Youmans, Bobbi	Idaho Community Foundation,	1997-1999
Zarate, Margie Matheson	Coeur d'Alene Tribal Dev. Corp.	1994-1996
Zelus, Paul	Idaho State University	1995-1997

HISTORY

IDAHO RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL/ IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP

January 22, 1990 – President George Bush, Sr. announces his Presidential Initiative on Rural Development. Eight State Rural Development Councils were named. The National Rural Development Initiative was organized to train the SRDCs. It was chaired by USDA Secretary Clayton Yeutter and included 15 Departments and independent agencies. Other states were asked to form State Rural Development Councils.

April 5, 1991 – Idaho holds its first meeting. It grew out of the Food and Agriculture Committee. Mike Field, then State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, sent meeting notices to 32 agencies and organizations. Thirty-five people attended the meeting at the old Boise National Forest office. Dr. LeRoy Luft, Extension Director, facilitated a structured discussion that asked the following questions:

- ✓ Why a council?
- ✓ Do we want a council?
- ✓ Barriers to an Effective Council
- ✓ Resources for Success
- ✓ How can we neutralize or eliminate the barriers to success?
- ✓ Short-Term and Long-Term Goals

May 5, 1991 – Governor Andrus signs Executive Order 91-3 establishing the Idaho Rural Development Council, based on the group's decision that a formal council was desirable for Idaho. Dr. Dick Gardner of the Division of Financial Management was named State Co-Chair; Tom Christensen, Assistant State Conservationist of USDA-SCS, was named Federal Co-Chair. They provided part-time staffing for 18 months and nine meetings; there was no formal budget for IRDC.

December 31, 1991 – Governor Andrus makes formal application to USDA Secretary Madigan for the formation of a State Rural Development Council in Idaho.

Mid-May, 1992 – Idaho sends a state team to the Council of Governors' Policy Advisors Academy on Rural Competitiveness. They meet for a week in Snowbird, Utah and again in August at Bellevue, WA. Idaho team members include Tom Christensen, Dick Gardner, Greg Nelson, Trent Clark, Karl Tueller, Margot Knight, Representative Francis Field, Ron Hall and LeRoy Luft.

May 28, 1992 – The Interim Steering Committee recommended to the full council, names for a search and screening committee for Executive Director hired by a competitive process meeting federal and state standards.

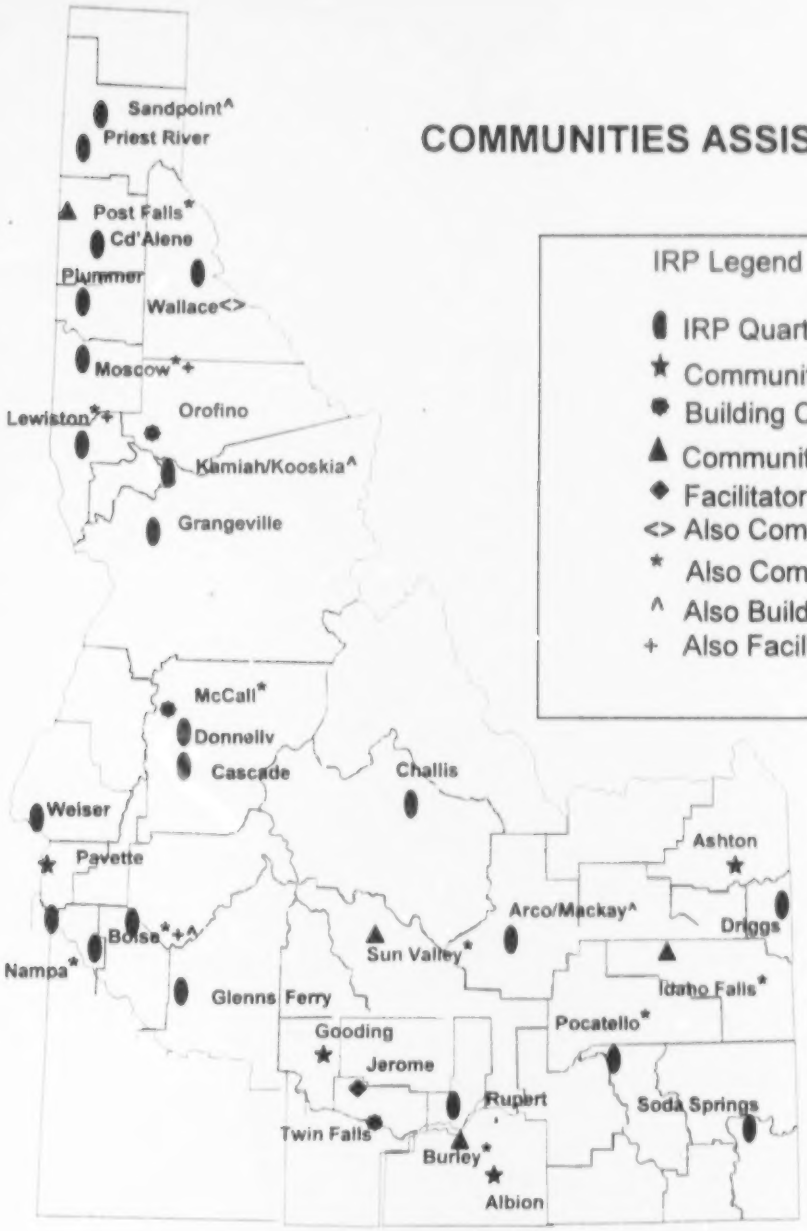
August 24-25, 1992 - Organizational Retreat held at Bogus Basin with 52 attendee including Bob Lovan of the national office and Jay Kayne of National Governors' Association. The group approved mission and vision statements done at the Rural Academy and developed goals and action strategies for IRDC.

December 1992 - Dick Gardner hired as Executive Director in December 1992.

March 26, 1993 – Interim Steering Committee becomes Board of Directors at first IRDC election.

May 30, 1997 – Under Chairman Trent Clark's guidance, the Idaho Rural Development Council becomes the Idaho Rural Partnership. Mission statement and Board of Directors structure also changed. IRP moves from DFM to the Idaho Department of Labor.

COMMUNITIES ASSISTED BY IRP 1992-2000



IRP Legend of Meetings and Trainings

- IRP Quarterly Meetings
- ★ Community Leader Mini-Forums
- Building Common Ground Meetings
- ▲ Community Leader Forums
- ◆ Facilitator Roundtables
- <> Also Community Leader Mini-Forums held here
- * Also Community Leader Forum held here
- ^ Also Building Common Ground held here
- \+ Also Facilitator Roundtables held here

ON-GOING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

20	Educational Programs, repeated at
64	Workshops or conferences at separate locations, with
4,500	Participants
40	Meetings of the Idaho Rural Partnership, across the state
3	IRP membership meetings per year currently in northern Idaho, eastern Idaho and Boise
40	Issues of the *IRP Update* Newsletter 1992-2000
38,000	Copies of the newsletter mailed free to community leaders & rural practitioners
23,000	Directories and other publications distributed free

IRP TASKS COMPLETED 1991-2000

The IRP has been fortunate to have a diverse membership strongly committed to achieving results. The credit for the following completed projects belongs to the dozens of agencies, companies, and organizations involved. These projects demonstrate the positive actions that can spring from bringing people together for a common purpose through the forum called the Idaho Rural Partnership. The IRP believes in empowering rural communities, businesses, and individuals to help themselves and make their own decisions. Providing Idahoans with more information that leads to better local decisions is at the heart of many IRP tasks. The benefits of these projects continue to flow across rural Idaho.

BUILDING STRONG LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Idaho Leadership Development Project
2. Community Leader Forums
3. Community Leader Mini-Forums
4. Building Common Ground Workshops
5. Facilitation Methods Training
6. Facilitator Roundtables
7. Harmony Workshop
8. Rural Development Workshops for USDA Field Staff
9. Americorps Community Development Application
10. Pacific Northwest Grantmakers' Forum

INFORMING RURAL LEADERS

11. *Profile of Rural Idaho*
12. *Idaho Small Business and Community Development Resource Directory*
13. *Directory of Idaho Facilitators*
14. *Harvesting Hometown Jobs* and *Getting Online: An Internet Guide for Community Leaders*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

15. Idaho Rural Telecommunication Education Project
16. *InfoTech '96*
17. Internet Masters
18. Idaho Kellogg MIRA Project
19. Connect Idaho Conference
20. Idaho E-Business Conference

TIMBER VALUE-ADDED

21. Encouraging Timber Bridges in Idaho
22. Growing Sustainable Forest Enterprises: An Intermountain Idea Fair
23. Nurturing an *Intermountain Woodnet*
24. Small Wood '98

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

25. Idaho Community Mandates Pilot Project
26. Idaho One Plan Project
27. Business Solutions Homepage
28. Target: Practice – Rural and Underserved Idaho
29. Idaho Rural Health Theater Project – *Opening Windows*
30. Nez Perce Bio-Control Center
31. Statewide Homebuyer Education

GROWTH & DISTRESS ISSUES

32. Rural/Urban Interface Workshops
33. County Distress Index
34. Rapid Growth in High Amenity Communities
35. Land Use Protection Policy Workshops
36. Columbia Basin Economic Adjustment Strategy, Phase 1
37. Governor's Task Force on Rural Development

GATHERING TO LEARN

38. Rural Workforce 2000 Conference
39. Passages '99
40. 1998 Idaho Governor's Safety and Health Conference
41. Idaho Natural Resources Conference
42. Building Bridges to a Sustainable Idaho
43. Sustainability Round Table Information Forum

FACILITATING MULTI-AGENCY ACTION

44. Local Transportation Planning
45. Workforce Development Council
46. Community Forestry Council
47. Role Clarification - RC&D/EDD
48. Role Clarification - USDA-SCS/USB

IRP TASKS COMPLETED 1991-2000

The IRP is fortunate to have a diverse membership strongly committed to achieving results. The credit for the following projects belongs to the dozens of agencies, companies, and organizations involved. These projects demonstrate the positive actions that can spring from bringing people together for a common purpose through the forum called the Idaho Rural Partnership. The IRP believes in empowering rural communities, businesses, and individuals to help themselves and make their own decisions. Providing Idahoans with more information that leads to better local decisions is at the heart of many IRP tasks.

CAPACITY-BUILDING LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

Increasing the leadership capacity of volunteer community leaders was one of the first issues identified by IRP. Since all development happens locally, strong local organizations are in everyone's best interest.

✓ Idaho Leadership Development Project.

IRP meetings revealed that several member agencies were each trying to do local capacity-building. The IRP Leadership Committee began in 1993 by assessing the training needs of rural leaders with six focus groups and by inventorying the existing leadership training programs available in Idaho. An interagency training team then developed the curriculum for the Community Leader Forums, which included handouts and a set of 11 laminated posters.

Partners: US Economic Development Administration, Lewis-Clark State College, ID Dept of Commerce, ID Commission on the Arts, Idaho Cooperative Extension system, and many others

Outcomes: Idaho Leadership Resources Inventory compiled by LCSC identified

IRP Role: Lead agency, catalyst and coordinator, staff work for training materials and forum logistics, forum moderator.

✓ Community Leader Forums

Community development occurs locally and so is dependent on strong community-based organizations. The Forums build on development work begun in 1993. Forums are highly interactive, emphasize peer learning, offer a wide range of concurrent training topics, use an interagency cast of trainers, and use the arts in training. We solicited private sector support to subsidize the registration cost, and we offered them on a Friday/Saturday to avoid conflicts with work. Registration was $30.

Partners: Idaho Department of Commerce; Idaho Commission on the Arts; Idaho Cooperative Extension System; Lewis-Clark State College; Washington Water Power, US West, Idaho Power, Idaho State University, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho RC&Ds, and many others

Outcomes: Twelve Community Leader Forums were held1994-98, with a total of 1,140 participants. In a post-evaluation done in 1995, we found that 116 respondents documented 220 new projects or activities credited to the Forums, many had assumed new leadership positions, and all reported multiple behavior changes in working with people. Evaluations were very positive, with 100% of attendees rating the Forums effective or very effective.

IRP Role: Lead agency in design, coordination, implementation, and seed funding.

✓ Community Leader Mini-Forums

In 1999 IRP shifted to offering a one-day Mini-Forum to clusters of communities who requested and helped organize them. Mini-Forums feature multiple trainers in two concurrent sessions, with interactive plenary sessions. They can be offered in smaller communities than full-sized forums.

Lead Partners: Idaho Department of Commerce; Lone Tree Consulting, Idaho RC&Ds

Outcomes: The Leadership Committee designed the Mini-Forums, building in two plenary sessions and the choice from a dozen breakout topics. Mini-forums were requested and held in Wallace, Ashton, Gooding, and Payette in 1999 and in Albion in 2000. Audiences ranged from 22-35, and responded enthusiastically.

IRP Role: Lead agency in design, coordination, implementation, and seed funding.

✓ Building Common Ground Workshops.

Increasing polarization within communities and between interest groups over natural resource issues was identified as a growing concern in 1995. Increased communication and conflict resolution skills are foundation investments in collaborative problem-solving. At the national level, the National 4-H Council had

developed a two-day training program addressing exactly these concerns. The rural development councils of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming brought the originator of this training to Bozeman in November 1995 for a train-the-trainers workshop. Idaho modified the training slightly to fit community needs.

Partners: Idaho Cooperative Extension, Idaho Commission on the Arts, Idaho RC&Ds, and local hosts

Outcomes: Building Common Ground workshops were offered nine times in Arco, Kamiah, Sandpoint, Kamiah, McCall (twice), Boise, Orofino, and Twin Falls in 1995-96. Class size averaged 20, and participant evaluations were consistently enthusiastic. Many participants reported using the techniques they learned, in some cases facilitating meetings themselves. The trainings created opportunities for follow-up trainings with school officials in Sandpoint and with Indian Health Service staff in Lapwai. Idaho's experience was featured in a plenary session of the National Rural Development Partnership Conference in August 1996.

IRP Role: Coordination and marketing. Provided seed funding. Staff has co-conducted 8 workshops.

✓ Facilitation Methods Training.

Effective collaboration requires a large pool of trained facilitators to run group processes efficiently. IRP secured the services of the Institute of Cultural Affairs to teach a facilitation course normally only available on the West coast. IRP brought this training to Idaho at roughly half price for those who work facilitating community groups.

Partners: Cooperative Extension, LCSC, ISU, Idaho Chapter ASTD

Outcomes: Six two-day workshops were held in Boise, Pocatello, and Lewiston, with the help of ISU and LCSC. Participants rated the training very highly. Some 50 Idaho facilitators trained.

IRP Role: Organized Boise workshop, coordinated others, and provided funding support.

✓ Facilitator Roundtables

Opportunities to gain training in facilitation skills are rare and expensive. These peer-learning events are conceived as an inexpensive chance for advanced training and networking with fellow facilitators. An open design format is used where participants prioritize the discussion topics and help facilitate the event.

Partners: IRP Leadership Committee

Outcomes: Roundtables were held in Lewiston and Boise in 1998 with very positive feedback. Roundtables were again held in Moscow and Jerome in 1999. Attendance has ranged from 19-33. The Roundtables serve to build a network of facilitators in Idaho and creates peer support for their work.

IRP Role: IRP conducts these events with help from IRP Leadership Committee members.

✓ Harmony Workshop

IRP has consistently espoused the power of diversity and inclusion in community decisionmaking, and the need to respect the human dignity of all. This training, subtitled "Working Effectively with American Indians," was designed to make rural practitioners more aware of the realities of living in Indian Country, without forcing a particular policy agenda.

Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, five Idaho Tribes, ID Dept. of Commerce

Outcomes: About 85 people participated in a three and a half day sensitivity training in Indian culture August 14-17 at the Salmon River Challenge retreat center near Riggins, Idaho. This NRCS-based program was expanded to target other federal, state, and local agencies. It was the first training of its kind offered to state and local officials. All five Idaho tribes sent speakers to represent them. A cadre of national Native American trainers was joined by more than a dozen Idaho tribal leaders to describe Indian country from personal, spiritual, cultural, legal, economic, and historical perspectives. The training received excellent evaluations, with many emphasizing the personal growth gained by the experience.

IRP Role: Help with meeting design, marketing and recruitment, local government scholarships

✓ Rural Development Workshops for USDA Field Staff.

Working with the USDA Food and Agriculture Committee, trainers from IRP's Leadership Committee conducted five workshops in Post Falls, Lewiston, Blackfoot, Nampa, and Twin Falls during April 1993. About 185 staff attended these day and a half sessions patterned to educate, motivate, and increase collaboration. In 1997, IRP organized and delivered a three-day training in basic knowledge and skills for community development for all of the Idaho staff of USDA-RD, in

conjunction with a shift in role and mission for the agency formerly called the Farmers' Home Administration. Sixteen IRP members contributed their expertise to that training.

Outcomes: 270 participants who know more about the substance and process of community development and whose job is applying these skills more pro-actively in Idaho.

IRP Role: Design training and help with logistics. Coordinate trainers and assemble training materials. Conduct training.

✓ **Americorps Community Development Application**.

IRP saw an opportunity when this program began in 1996 to increase the capacity of rural communities. A coalition was formed to develop an application to Americorps. The Idaho Economic Development Association took the lead. The group believed that the best way to use this program in a rural state was to place individuals in rural communities to work for a local organization on their priorities. The group received requests from more than fifty community organizations who were willing to provide matching support for an Americorps volunteer. Training, mentoring, and monitoring functions were developed.

Partners: US EDA, ID Dept of Commerce, economic development districts, Idaho RC&Ds, universities

Outcomes: The Idaho Commission on National and Community Service did not agree with the group's vision of using Americorps and denied funding to the application. Nevertheless, the project succeeded in building an innovative and collaborative approach to empowering local communities, paving the way for more entrepreneurial risk-taking. Subsequently, SEICOG was able to place six Vista volunteers in rural southeast Idaho for several years.

IRP Role: Concept developed at IRP meetings. Catalyst for building team. Provided seed money.

✓ **Pacific Northwest Grantmakers' Forum.**

Rural Idaho's capacity-building needs include grantwriting, fundraising, and grantmaking. Funders need a personal understanding of rural circumstances and rural issues before they are likely to invest there. This Forum was the first time this group of funders from three states had met in Idaho. IRP participation in forum planning allowed several members to stress the rural aspects of the state's needs.

Outcomes: New and stronger relationships with IRP members and rural Idaho generally with Idaho and regional philanthropic funders. Successful funding by Murdock Foundation of later project.

IRP Role: Conference planning and agenda development. IRP members presented in five sessions.

PUBLICATIONS

IRP believes in wide distribution of materials that inform local leaders and lower rural isolation.

✓ ***Profile of Rural Idaho***

This publication was originally developed by the predecessor to IRP in 1990 with help from the National Governors' Association and has been imitated in other states. It graphically shows trends in rural Idaho, disparities between rural and more urban Idaho, and provides concise county comparisons. IRP helped with the second edition in 1993. It is cited widely across the state and its definition of rural Idaho has become a standard. The 1999 edition saw Latah County added as an 8th urban county.

Lead Partners: Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Office of Rural Health, Idaho Cooperative Extension

Outcomes: Commerce served as lead on this project, with IRP coordinating data input and review. A photo contest generated interest and the back cover photo. The IRP Board served as a review panel. 11,000 total copies were printed and sent to local officials, agency managers, business and community leaders. A speaker's bureau is available to make presentations to groups.

IRP Role: Facilitate development and review, co-author, seed funding, numerous presentations.

✓ ***Idaho Small Business and Community Development Resource Directory***

Originally created in 1995 with seed funding from US West, this IRP product became so popular that it was

updated in 1997 and in 1999. It is a widely used reference document.

Partners: Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Department of Labor, US Small Business Administration, Idaho Small Business Development Centers, USDA Farm Service Agency, and US West.

Outcomes: The third version was integrated with the IRP database and printed as a Microsoft Access document. 11,000 total copies of the three editions were printed and distributed to community leaders, elected officials, business owners, and rural development practitioners across the state at no charge. Electronic copies in text and database format are available on diskette or may be downloaded from the IRP web site. In addition, a searchable HTML version is on the IRP web site.

IRP Role: IRP manages and staffs this project including design, confirming data, fundraising, and distribution.

✓ ***Directory of Idaho Facilitators***

Collaborative or consensus decision-making requires people with group process skills for smoothly-run and productive meetings that involve diverse views. Communities often need a facilitator to manage strategic planning processes and town meetings. Agencies often need a neutral facilitator with less a stake in the issue. IRP created this publication, which has since been copied in other states.

Partners: IRP Leadership Committee

Outcomes: Updates and new entries have been solicited. The number of new entries rose from 74 in the 1997 edition to 124 facilitators in the 1999 edition. New information was integrated into the new IRP database. Photographs were added as an option so customers might recognize facilitators, using high technology to add the human touch. Over 3,000 directories were distributed to communities, agencies, non-profits, and large corporations across the state at no charge. The Directory has also been mounted on the IRP web site in downloadable document and searchable HTML forms.

IRP Role: IRP manages this project including design, data collection, and distribution.

✓ ***Harvesting Hometown Jobs*** **and** ***Getting Online: An Internet Guide for Community Leaders***

IRP was able to secure very favorable bulk rates to purchase these two excellent publications by the National Center for Small Communities. The retail price was $15 each. More than 1,000 copies of these books were distributed free to Idaho community leaders and rural practitioners.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Bridging the geographic digital divide has been an IRP theme since its inception. Information technologies are a two-edged sword that can either help overcome the isolation of rural Idaho and challenges of rural service delivery, or can leave rural people at an even greater disadvantage and promote job flight to urban areas.

✓ **Idaho Rural Telecommunication Education Project.**

Idaho's first strategic plan for telecommunications was *Telecomm '92: Connecting Idaho to the Future*. From that study, two things were recognized: a) that many people are not aware of how telecommunications can improve their lives, and b) that greater demand for telecommunications services is likely to motivate service providers to invest in more infrastructure for rural Idaho.

Partners: Association of Idaho Cities was the lead, with US West Foundation funding.

Outcomes: Over 1,300 people attended 117 workshops held in 30 communities, plus three Community Leader Forums and the AIC convention. Four information brochures were developed.

IRP Role: Provided a forum to discuss the opportunity. Brokered the deal, facilitated planning meetings, and drafted the grant application. Staff served on project steering committee.

✓ ***InfoTech '96.***

Governor Batt asked a group of 28 elected officials and state agency heads to revisit *Telecomm '92*, the state's comprehensive strategic plan. He asked the group to make recommendations to update that policy document with an eye toward increased government efficiency, better access to government by its citizens, and economic development potential. Over a three month period, the group met six times in plenary sessions for a total exceeding 30 hours. Five subcommittees worked in concert. The Department of Administration was the lead agency; the IRP provided its executive director upon request to help design the process, facilitate the meetings, and represent a rural perspective.

Outcomes: Governor Batt released the final report January 25, 1997. Two pieces of legislation impiemented a new governance structure called INTRMC and allowed significant savings in state information technology purchases.

IRP Role: Staff facilitated six task force meetings and eight subcommittee meetings, helped design the process, and edit the report.

✓ **Internet Masters**

IRP sponsored an early series of telecommunications awareness-building workshops around the state in 1994, with help from US West, GTE, and the Association of Idaho Cities. A second grant application led to the US West WOW van's two year visit to Idaho with its mobile computer lab and trainers. An IRP group envisioned an Internet Masters program, much like master gardeners, to build a network of local volunteer computer experts to help answer questions by new users.

Partners: Idaho Cooperative Extension System, Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho Division of Voc Ed, Idaho public libraries, USDA- Rural Development, US West, Western Rural Development Center

Progress to Date: This concept was submitted to several funders on a West-wide basis by the Western Rural Development Center, and a $123,000 grant was approved from the Fund for Rural America. An IRP team participated in a planning meeting in May. A total of 14 people traveled to Corvallis, Oregon in July and August, 1998, along with other Western teams, for Internet Master training from the original program developers from Missouri. A logo and a West-wide database of Internet Masters has been developed.
IM classes were offered in Idaho Falls, Pierce/Weippe, and Boise in 1999. Extension and LCSC took the lead in coordinating the program.

IRP Role: Catalyst, facilitation, planning & development, marketing, coordination, seed funding.

✓ **Idaho Kellogg MIRA Project**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation chose a cluster of six Idaho timber communities to participate in a new rural development program called *Managing Information with Rural America* (MIRA). This selection created an RFP for grant application from community support organizations. IRP spread the word and facilitated the development of two group applications by 11 organizations.

Partners: Lewis-Clark State College, Clearwater RC&D, Panhandle Lakes RC&D, West Central Highlands RC&D, Panhandle Area Council, Clearwater Economic Development Association, North Idaho Woodnet, Woodnet Development Council, Trico, and Self-Employment and Economic Development council

Outcomes: Grant funds totaling $158,000 were received, with each organization implementing various technology improvements. IRP has made database improvements and web site improvements. A digital camera will allow more innovations. A jointly-planned conference showcasing ways information technology can improve the performance of community non-profit organizations and local governments was held October 1-2, 1999. An organizational development retreat was held February 25-26, 1999 for the 11 organizations.

IRP Role: Convene and facilitate, project design, implementation, showcase community projects

✓ **Connect Idaho Conference**

Across the country it is becoming clear that access to broadband information technology applications is one the essential infrastructure ingredients a community must accomplish to thrive in the new century. Yet, community leaders usually lack the information to even know what actions are within their power. Instead, many local elected officials find telecommunications discussions quickly become overly complex. The idea for this conference emerged from a meeting of economic development leaders in October 1999. A regional workshop was held in Jerome, Idaho, and generated lively discussion. This conference was linked with the issuing of

an RFP for statewide telecommunications services called IdaNet, which was being designed to leverage service improvements into rural areas.

Partners: Idaho Innovation Center, Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Department of Administration, Bechtel BWXT Idaho, SAIC, US West

Outcomes: This was one of the first statewide conferences on telecommunications issues held in Idaho. Over 180 community leaders, agency managers, economic development practitioners, policymakers, and industry officials attended *Connect Idaho: Attracting High-Speed Telecommunications*. A summary of the conference was posted to the IRP website at http://www.labor.state.id.us/irp/Presentations/ConnectIdahoSummary_files/frame.htm. It proved a great learning opportunity for people from all levels of awareness. Successes at gaining improved telecommunications services from Idaho and beyond were shared. State officials got to share their plans, industry leaders explained the differences in technologies and the business case for siting them. Many learned for the first time that community telecomm projects might be eligible for infrastructure financing programs. The idea of a community assessment as a local empowerment tool was embraced. Conference evaluations were very positive. The Ida-Net RFP was delayed slightly and modified to include input heard from rural leaders at this conference. Other ideas may be acted on by the Governor's Task Force on Rural Development in 2001.

IRP Role: Conference co-chair and sponsor, program planning facilitation, recruited new partners, marketing, emcee, conference summarizer

✓ Idaho E-Business Conference

The College of Southern Idaho invited IRP to help organize a conference on e-commerce as a way to keep a statewide dialogue going on rural telecommunications issues.

Partners: College of Southern Idaho, INEEL-Bechtel BWXT Idaho, Twin Falls Times-News, ID Dept of Commerce, DL Evans Bank, Northwexst Network Services

Outcomes: 185 participants attended the conference November 10-11, 2000 in Twin Falls.

IRP Role: Conference planning & design, recruit sponsors and speakers

TIMBER VALUE-ADDED

In an era of declining timber supplies from federal lands, IRP recognized that a key to sustaining forest-based jobs is to add more value to the wood before it leaves the region.

✓ Encouraging Timber Bridges in Idaho.

One the IRP's first projects was an interagency effort to increase the number of bridges in Idaho being built from engineered wood products. This was seen as a way to increase Idaho value-added while meeting infrastructure needs and improving road aesthetics. Two obstacles were identified-a lack of knowledge in timber bridge design and the failure to use life-cycle accounting in comparing costs.

Partners: ID Transportation Department, Consulting Engineers of Idaho, American Plywood Association, USFS Forest Products Lab

Outcomes: A two-day workshop on timber bridge design and construction was held in October 1992 and attended by roughly thirty engineers. Demonstration bridge constructed in Emmett. Unfortunately, timber prices rose sharply shortly after this training.

IRP Role: Problem identification, meeting coordination

✓ Growing Sustainable Forest Enterprises: An Intermountain Idea Fair.

This conference was designed as a top-quality learning experience from business leaders and experts on ways to increase sustainable flows of economic values from intermountain forests. A broad, three-state, public/private partnership raised over $40,000 for this event. The conference included many speaker choices, exhibits, and a binder of take-home materials.

Partners: US Forest Service, Bitterroot RC&D, First Interstate Bank, US West, MT RDC & many others

Outcomes: Roughly 300 people attended the April 6-8, 1994 event in Missoula, Montana. Over 50 were Idahoans. Evaluations were very positive. This conference developed widespread interest in forming an intermountain wood manufacturing network.

IRP Role: Concept discussed at IRP meeting. Catalyst for building Idaho team and planning conference. Provided seed money, mostly used to reduce registration fees for Idaho attendees.

✓ Nurturing an *Intermountain Woodnet*

Business-led networks are one strategy to encourage entrepreneurs to find new products and markets and to find ways to cooperate for increased regional competitiveness.

Lead Partners: Forest Service, Clearwater Economic Development Association, USDA-Rural Development, Idaho RC&Ds

Outcomes: This effort evolved from an earlier IRP conference on value-added wood products in 1994 and began with a field trip to the Olympic Peninsula to see a model manufacturing network. Five multi-county Woodnets operated at one time in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, though that number dwindled as grant funding expired. IRP helped secure funding for Intermountain Woodnet from the Forest Service and USDA-Rural Development in 1996 and 1997. Numerous technical assistance workshops, trade show opportunities, and web page marketing resulted for over 100 member businesses. Intermountain Woodnet was a co-sponsor of SmallWood '98. North Idaho Woodnet continued the Intermountain Woodnet role, while the Central Idaho Woodnet has evolved into the for-profit Woodnet Development Council and the new ForestCraft Marketing Cooperative.

IRP Role: Catalyst for concept, facilitation/coordination, seed funding. Broker other partners and funders. Advise Board of business owners.

✓ Small Wood '98

Regardless of perspective, the issues of forest health and the Upper Columbia River Basin EIS mean that more and more of Idaho's timber supply will be coming from smaller diameter trees and less valuable species. IRP sought to sustain industry vitality and employment by showcasing innovative harvesting, manufacturing, and marketing uses of smaller diameter forest products.

Partners: Intermountain Woodnet, Blue Mountain Resources Institute, USDA Forest Service, Dept of Commerce

Outcomes: Small Wood '98 happened in Lewiston on October 14-16 after a year of hard work and planning. About 220 participants toured forests and businesses in mobile workshops, looked at equipment and product exhibits and listened to successful case studies in small diameter wood use. Senator Craig kicked off the event. A notebook and video summarizing the conference are available.

IRP Role: Identified opportunity, brokered partners and funders, conference planning and oversight, seed funding

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

A key role for IRP is to facilitate complex collaborations to address important rural issues in ways that would not otherwise have happened.

✓ Idaho Community Mandates Pilot Project.

The Division of Environmental Quality was the lead agency in this nationally-recognized project that emerged from IRP discussions, national policy debate, and a group of Magic Valley city leaders called the MACC Committee. IRP secured a grant for university researchers to analyze the administrative and fiscal capacity of the pilot communities of Fairfield, Hagerman, Gooding, and Jerome. A list of relevant mandates, and their associated health and environmental risks, was developed together with the cost of meeting the mandates. Fairfield and Hagerman completed the process by holding town meetings to prioritize both mandated and other community capital investments. Jerome rolled the analysis into their comprehensive planning process. Mayor Rueben Miller of Fairfield represented the Idaho perspective as Chair of the EPA Small Town Task Force.

Partners: ID Division of Environmental Quality, EPA-Idaho, Cities of Fairfield, Hagerman, Gooding, and Jerome, BSU, U of Idaho, and others

Outcomes: The case studies clearly show policymakers that small Western towns have very limited fiscal resources or personnel to bring to bear on mandated infrastructure improvements, and that these mandates compete with other capital improvement needs in the eyes of residents. The project was useful to Idaho's Congressional delegation in the passage of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. EPA noted the Idaho pilot project in issuing a new "Policy on Flexible Enforcement Responses to Small Community Violations" in November 1995. The Division of Environmental Quality performed financial analysis for the City of McCall, based on the pilot process. Idaho passed legislation and

negotiated rules that allow other Idaho communities to follow the pilot process to a more flexible compliance order. The Mandates Team won a Hammer Award from the National Performance Review for this project. Boise State University became an EPA Environmental Finance Center following this project.

IRP Role: Concept evolved within IRP; staff served on and facilitated steering committee; link to state efforts in Nebraska and Oregon through National Rural Development Partnership; and brokered research grant to University of Idaho, served on negotiated rulemaking committee.

✓ Idaho One Plan Project.

Idaho farmers and ranchers face a fragmented and complex set of incentives and regulations regarding farm conservation, many of which require an on-farm conservation plan. This project has attempted to consolidate all the relevant information from over a dozen agencies and present it in a farmer-friendly way. Further, a coalition of farm organizations and agencies is trying to find ways to re-structure service delivery to be more time-efficient to farmers and staff and to comprehensively meet government requirements with a single farm conservation plan.

Partners: ID Soil Conservation Commission, ID Dept of Ag, ID DEQ, EPA-Idaho, Idaho Cooperative Extension, BLM, USDA-NRCS, and many others

Outcomes: An MOU supporting One Plan was signed by Governor Batt at the Ag Summit in 1996. 1997-98 were spent developing an innovative Internet site that leads farmers and ranchers to the info they need. About 750 pages of information on conservation planning have been assembled together with over 400 links to ag-related web sites. A full-time programming assistant has been hired, and EPA has detailed a process engineer and NRCS a water quality specialist. Over 80 demonstrations have been given to a wide variety of groups in Idaho and nationally. The web site was launched nationally by Lt. Gov Butch Otter and then-Senator Kempthorne at the Ag Summit in 1997. One Plan has been recognized as a national leader by EPA, NRCS, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. In 1998, a downloadable planning prototype was developed that will eventually allow operators to develop a plan on the privacy of their own computer. It is GIS-based with farm maps and location-specific information. A One Plan delegation traveled to Washington, DC to seek funding to take this planning component statewide.

1999 saw the designation of One Plan as one of 25 USDA Business Process Re-engineering projects nationwide. Hits on the site have grown to over 400 per week as Idaho has the 6th fastest growth in farmers on the Internet. 41% of Idaho's farmers and ranchers are now on-line. IRP funded an updating of the site's appearance for increased usability. Funds from Cooperative Extension and the Idaho Dairymens' Association helped develop a nutrient management module. Following a project planning retreat, further funds from DEQ have paid for the GIS prototype to be deployed for a portion of the Lower Boise River Basin. Sen. Craig secured an additional $200,000 in funding in 2000 to take the prototype statewide. Idaho farmers, ranchers, and those who serve them now have a new tool to help access information, find the right person, and make farm planning decisions.

IRP Role: Extensive meeting facilitation, concept paper, seed funding, brokering partners and funding, marketing. Helped with numerous public presentations. Staff serves on steering committee.

✓ Business Solutions Homepage

Idaho's strategic plan *Info Tech '96* recommended increasing public awareness of government services available electronically. IRP advocated using the One Plan model to create a coordinated, intuitive business assistance web site. The Reducing Idaho Bureaucracy (RIB) Committee is an interagency group that has been coordinating government business services for some time. This project puts the Small Business Information Fairs that they conduct statewide onto the Internet. It attempts to help businesses understand the government regulations that will impact their business and help guide them to resources that can help them overcome barriers to business growth.

Partners: RIB Committee, Idaho Small Business Development Centers, USDA Rural Development,

Outcomes: The ISBDC worked with RIB Committee and IRP members to obtain a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant. A steering committee and several working committees have met weekly to assemble relevant information and links to other web resources. The new web site was formally launched by Governor Kempthorne in December 2000.

IRP Role: Catalyst, model design, broker partners and funding

✓ **Target: Practice – Rural and Underserved Idaho.**

Recruiting and retaining rural primary care providers is a major challenge. This collaboration secured a $100,000 planning grant in 1993 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Several meetings and two retreats resulted in a strategic plan to increase geographic access to primary care in Idaho. The plan's strategies were implemented in 1994 and continued over the next three years.

Partners: Idaho Rural Health Education Center, ID Office of Rural Health, 40 health care providers, universities, health regulators, consumer groups, local government, and community interests

Outcomes: A three-year $900,000 implementation grant was won from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, along with a $1 million low-interest loan to establish a $5 million revolving loan fund for improving rural facilities. The 1994 Legislature approved a concurrent resolution endorsing the plan and appropriated a $100,000 increase in the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program and $60,000 for a Primary Care Partnership Program to establish rural health clinics. Rural vacancies in health care providers fell sharply in the late 1990s according to informal telephone surveys.

IRP Role: Provided forum to inform nonhealth interests of the importance of health care and network to connect several members into project. Staff facilitated planning meetings and represents rural community interests on Interagency Work Group.

✓ **Idaho Rural Health Theater Project – *Opening Windows***

Self-destructive teenage youth behaviors are issues that rural parents and communities would just as soon ignore. Nor does lecturing seem to impact youth decisions effectively. This innovative project used the power of theater to illustrate the dynamics that may lead to destructive choices and the consequences of those behaviors.

Partners: Idaho Theater for Youth, Idaho Rural Health Education Center, Idaho Commission on the Arts, seven rural Idaho hospitals, Idaho Office on Rural Health, Idaho Community Foundation, JR Simplot Company

Outcomes: A steering committee hired playwright Micki Pantajja, who listened to teens and health care providers in seven rural Idaho towns before writing *Opening Windows*. Idaho Theater for Youth has now presented the play and its facilitated community discussion to over 35,000 people (27,000 from Idaho) in more than three dozen rural communities during tours in 1996, 1997 & 1998. Opening Windows was featured at the NRDP conference in Washington, DC in March 1997. Senator Larry Craig and HHS Secretary Donna Shalala both loved it. ITY's 1998 tour expanded to Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada in addition to 16 rural Idaho communities. Included among the 50+ performances was one before the Idaho Volunteer Summit. Other states like Colorado and Wisconsin have now developed their own local troupes.

IRP Role: Forum for project initiation and discussion, broker for development funding, seed funding, marketing.

✓ **Nez Perce Bio-Control Center**

Under this concept, a facility to collect, rear, distribute, and provide consulting services on beneficial insects to control noxious weeds was established at the Nez Perce Indian Reservation at Lapwai. This enterprise would eventually be self-supporting on a fee-for-service basis. It would both promote sustainable development and tribal employment.

Partners: Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Agriculture, counties, Forest Service, EDA, USDA-RD

Outcomes: A feasibility study to examine technical, economic, and administrative dimensions of the proposal was the first step. The 1995 Legislature approved $25,000 for a feasibility study, matched by tribal funds. The second and larger phase of the feasibility study was completed in November 1996. It showed that with relatively modest start-up grant funding, a center could be profitable from the start. After a time, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee approved the project and hired an executive director in February 1999. Since then $176,600 has been raised in start-up grants from USDA-RD, EDA, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Idaho Dept. of Ag. The business plan has been re-written to emphasize rearing of more rare beneficial insects, the construction of a GIS database that pinpoints rearing and release sites with GPS equipment, and more bio-control management services. Sales of $23,000 were made in 1999. In 2000 the staff of three is fully employed with contracts with Clearwater National Forest, the Corps of Engineers, the Idaho Department of Lands. Arrangements have been made with Potlatch Corporation and over 40 private landowners are customers. The Center is recognized as the central bio-control coordinating point in Idaho by the state weed coordinating committee. The Center has applied for a $400,000 EDA grant to build its first facility and is completing an environmental assessment to select its first rearing site on tribal land.

IRP Role: Coordinator and team building. Facilitator. Staff served on steering committee overseeing feasibility studies.

✓ **Statewide Homebuyer Education**

Housing is currently one of the biggest challenges in rural Idaho. Housing specialists agree that one obstacle to successful home ownership is basic awareness of the economics, responsibilities, and

process of homebuying. Homebuyer education increases success rates of first-time home buyers, yet it has only been available in Idaho's larger communities. This collaboration is attempting to develop curricula and a delivery model for making these services available statewide.

Challenge Area: Infrastructure, Isolation, Education

Date Approved: 12/97

Lead Partners: Idaho Housing and Finance Association, Neighborhood Housing Services; Bank of America; US HUD; Idaho Cooperative Extension and many others.

Progress to Date: The Governor's Affordable Housing Task Force recommended this strategy, and a successful approach from Utah was brought to the Governor's Housing Conference in September 1997. IRP facilitated nine meetings of a multi-agency group in 1998 to develop a common understanding of the issue, a workable model for a statewide program, and a $193,100 HUD grant that adds $77,900 in IHFA and industry matching funds.

Implementation began in 1999 with the formation of a new non-profit affiliated with IHFA, called Idaho Partners for Homebuyer Education. Partnership agreements have been reached with seven regional partners to assist in local training. Additional funding of $300,000 was secured from HUD. The new program has been named "Finally Home!" and was launched statewide. In 2000, HUD funding was lost, but IPHE is continuing on with greater private sector support.

IRP Role: Catalyst for idea, extensive facilitation, funding for conference speaker, IRP staff serves on IPHE Board.

GROWTH & DISTRESS ISSUES

Rural Idaho's Swiss cheese economy has both pockets where rapid growth is occurring in high amenity communities and holes where resource-dependent communities are stagnating or reeling from plant closures. IRP has aimed strategies at both conditions.

✓ Rural/Urban Interface Workshops.

The Idaho RC&D Association took the lead in organizing a set of five workshops around the state in the spring of 1995 that examined the natural resource challenges that growth creates on the fringe of established communities; i.e., fire protection, wildlife habitat, stormwater runoff, or agricultural land preservation.

Partners: Idaho RC&D Association, Association of Idaho Cities, ID Dept of Commerce

Outcomes: One-day workshops were held in Post Falls, Lewiston, Caldwell, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls. There were 246 participants. A consistent theme was the importance of local citizen involvement in public decisionmaking.

IRP Role: Assisted in workshop design and provided seed money.

✓ County Distress Index.

Idaho's counties are large enough that the economic health of the county seat can mask distress in smaller outlying areas. This creates barriers for small towns wishing to access federal programs based on economic distress. Paul Zelus of Idaho State University generated a county distress index database of cross-sectional and time-series data that allowed economic development districts to make more sophisticated assessments of economic distress.

Partners: Idaho State University Center for Business Research, US EDA, economic development districts

Outcomes: Better analysis helps rural Idaho better compete for financial assistance.

IRP Role: Provided seed funding, and a forum for distributing results.

✓ Rapid Growth in High Amenity Communities.

Throughout the West many communities with timber, mining, grazing, or agricultural roots are finding themselves rapidly accumulating new residents who have located for the quality of life. This growth has created a complex set of economic, sociological, environmental, public finance, and administrative problems. State rural development council leaders and community development academics met twice in 1996, with the help of the Western Rural Development Center, to discuss ways to assist communities.

Partners: Western Rural Development Center, CO & MT RDCs, Teton Economic Development Council, and a variety of academics and rural practitioners

Outcomes: The desired outcome was a toolkit of awareness-building, self-assessment, and strategy-development materials that a variety of rural practitioners can use to work with growing communities throughout the West. The Western Rural

Development Center (WRDC) received a grant from the Murdock Foundation in 1997. A video entitled, "Growing Pains: Managing Population Growth in the West" was completed for use as a conversation-starter in community groups, together with an extension bulletin and four case studies.

IRP Roles: Catalyst to project development, fundraising, and demonstrating an entrepreneurial role to the WRDC. Network involvement of Idaho academics, rural practitioners, and cities

✓ Land Use Protection Policy Workshops

Farmland, grazing land and private timberland is being taken out of working production at an alarming rate in some portions of Idaho and the Intermountain West. This project was lead by Paula Jones for the Idaho RC&D Association and staff of the American Farmland Trust. Workshops will help people understand what is happening in their county and what tools exist to help guide development. The material will be presented in a value-neutral way that is fair to both property right and planning perspectives.

Partners: Idaho RC&D Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Farmland Trust, Idaho Cooperative Extension System

Outcomes: A regional partnership was formed and a SARE grant of $66,195 was received. A state planning committee that included a county commissioner and local activist met six times to design a workshop template and handout materials for a series of five workshops that were held across the state in the spring of 2000. Local planning committees handled logistics, marketing, and local speaker recruitment. Workshops were held in Preston, Idaho Falls, Caldwell, Twin Falls, and Moscow. Attendance ranged from 30 to 75, with total attendance of approximately 225. Participants received a three ring binder of materials describing current statutes, policy tool descriptions, success stories, and links to resources. The workshop format is now being used in Utah.

IRP Role: Seed funding, help gather partners, participate in and host planning committee, market workshops, workshop trainer

✓Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy, Phase 1

Over the past decade, resource-dependent communities in the Intermountain West have experienced the consequences of numerous federal resource management policies. Regardless of feelings about the decisions themselves, it seems reasonable to ask the federal government to try to help mitigate the unintended socio-economic consequences of its actions by investing in the continued viability of these places. This project seeks to make this case.

Partners: Economic Development Administration, Oregon Economic Development Department, Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Montana Department of Commerce, Governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Department of Commerce, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties

Outcomes: Developed buy-in within Idaho from Governor Kempthorne and local governments. Applied for and received a grant from US EDA for a Phase 1 study. Built a four-state steering committee. Hired a team of consultants, who constructed an economic vitality index for the 99 counties in the region. Documented much higher levels of distress than PNW or nation. Conducted numerous briefings within region and at national level on the results. Applied for and received larger Phase 2 grant to develop a regional strategy for economic adjustment.

IRP Role: Project coordination and guideance. Brokered other Idaho partners into project. Numerous presentations. Seed money.

✓Governor's Task Force on Rural Development

Governor Kempthorne approved the formation of a planning task force to review the status of rural Idaho, available programs and resources, and to make recommendations for state action. IRP viewed this as a chance to elevate rural development as a state policy priority, to build statewide dialogue, and to come to consensus on needed actions to benefit rural Idaho.

Partners: Governor's Office, ID Dept. of Commerce – lead agency, Avista, Monsanto, Qwest

Outcomes: A 65 member Task Force was convened three times in March, April and May 2000. The mission was to identify actions within the State's control that can be implemented within 3-5 years and create a positive impact on rural communities. Recommendations were made in the areas of leadership, telecommunications, infrastructure, workforce development and economic development. These are expected to be acted upon in the Gorvernor's Budget address and 2001 Legislative session.

IRP Role: Meeting Design, Facilitation, IRP member travel

CONFERENCES

IRP has supported a variety of conferences on important rural issues to help inform local leaders and state policymakers.

✓ Rural Workforce 2000 Conference

Implementation of the Workforce Investment Act prompted interest in holding a northwest regional conference on workforce issues, modeled after a very successful event held in 1998.

Partners: The Oregon Consortium, Idaho Department of Labor, US Department of Labor-Seattle Region, California Workforce Association, Oregon Rural Development Council, and others

Outcomes: About 220 participants from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, and California converged on Coeur d'Alene on January 18-20, 2000. Tracks on WIA implementation, rural one-stops, technology applications, community issues, and serving the rural customer were offered. In addition, the eBITS computer lab offered Internet training during the conference. Peer learning based on successful models elsewhere in the region created a good learning environment.

IRP Role: Planning Committee, partner recruitment, presenter

✓ Passages '99

The Lewis-Clark Bicentennial Commemoration in 2004-6 offers a major influx of visitors to north-central and northeastern Idaho. As many as 4.5 million visitors are predicted. Transportation, emergency services, tourist services, and interpretive resources are inadequate at present. *Passages '99* was the first of what is envisioned as a series of symposia dedicated to preparing regional businesses and communities for the biggest tourism event in their history.

Partners: Clearwater-Snake Bicentennial Committee

Outcomes: A quality event with 207 attendees from several states was held in Lewiston, Idaho on March 4-6. It facilitated the development of a strategic plan. Sen. Craig secured $500,000 to begin infrastructure improvements. Passages 2000 occurred without IRP assistance.

IRP Role: Seed funding, facilitation, marketing assistance.

✓ 1998 Idaho Governor's Safety and Health Conference

Idaho's natural resource industries are among the most dangerous occupations and remote workplaces are common. A statewide conference had not been done in over 25 years. In the wake of legislation requiring workers' compensation insurance for farmworkers, it made sense to examine ways to prevent accidents and reduce costs to all involved.

Partners: Office of Governor Batt, Idaho Association of Safety Engineers, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Migrant Council

Outcomes: About 300 attended this very successful conference on March 31, April 1-2, enjoying the trainings, exhibition, and networking. Governor Batt opened the event.

IRP Role: Broker partners, seed funding.

✓ Idaho Natural Resources Conference.

State and federal natural resource agency heads and Congressional staffs convened in the spring of 1995-97 for a one and one-half day retreat designed to encourage collaboration on pressing natural resource issues in Idaho. Governor Batt provided the keynote address in 1995, and Senate Natural Resources Committee Chair Senator Laird Noh helped review the just completed Legislative sessions. Federal versus state management of public lands, salmon and bull trout recovery, state historic preservation office procedures, Endangered Species Act, and ICEBMP were the topics of presentations. Considerable time was given to discussion of issues generated by the participants.

Outcomes: In addition to increased understanding of issues and better working relationships, this meeting has led the IRP to develop its Building Common Ground project and led USDA-FSA to develop a directory of tribal contacts.

IRP Role: Meeting planning and facilitation, seed funding

✓ **Building Bridges to a Sustainable Idaho.**

Widespread acknowledgment of the need to increase the sustainability of Idaho ecosystems, economies, communities, and cultures may form the basis for people of diverse interests to come together and resolve community conflicts. Most of the agenda was devoted to describing ongoing projects in Idaho that represent steps toward sustainability in the areas of forest, soil/land, water, and energy resources, as well as economic diversification, infrastructure, and growth management.

Partners: Lewis-Clark State College, College of Southern Idaho, many others

Outcomes: In October 1993, the IRP joined Lewis-Clark State College in the first major conference in Idaho on sustainable development. A second conference was held on February 9-10, 1994 in Twin Falls. Over 160 participants at each event rated it highly. Media coverage helped increase awareness of what sustainable development might look like and how people could overcome conflicting opinions through a common love of Idaho. IRP was invited to speak to the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

IRP Role: Lead agency. Staff coordinated interested parties into a collaborative effort. Administrator for cash donations. Seed money.

✓ **Sustainability Round Table Information Forum.**

This event followed up the previous conferences and took advantage of an offer by a pair of experts to lead a discussion on sustainable development approaches. The Governor's Office invited a balanced group of business, community, environmental, and government leaders.

Partners: Office of the Governor, ID Council on Industry and Enviroment, ID Conservation League, Division of Environmental Quality, Northwest Power Planning Council

Outcomes: A group of 70 top managers and leaders spent a day in spirited discussion about the issues Idaho faces in sustainability. The group agreed that there were many local projects that represented small steps toward sustainability, that the IRP provided many of the benefits of collaborative decision-making, and that there was not a sufficient sense of crisis to justify more intensive planning.

IRP Role: Catalyst and coordinator. Provided seed funding.

FACILITATIONS

IRP has been able to serve as a neutral facilitator for several strategic planning processes involving multiple agencies.

✓ **Local Transportation Planning**

The 1997 Legislative Session found local governments at loggerheads with the State on several transportation planning issues. A committee was formed to explore alternative solutions. IRP was asked to facilitate the process.

Partners: Idaho Transportation Department, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Association of Highway Districts

Outcomes: The full committee met three times and a staff group met seven times in 1997. Criteria were developed to evaluate proposals, alternatives were generated and consensus emerged on several items, resulting in two changes to ITFD Board policy and a piece of legislation. The biggest change was a major new program implemented in 2000 that puts the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council in charge of coordinating the selection of local federal-aid projects. Their criteria for selection place more emphasis on planning and regional cooperation.

IRP Role: Meeting planning and facilitation

✓ **Workforce Development Council**

IRP was invited to plan and facilitate two planning retreats in 1997 that resulted in the first strategic plan for the new Idaho Workforce Development Council.

✓ **Community Forestry Council**

IRP facilitated a strategic planning retreat of this interagency steering group in January 2000.

✓ **Role Clarification - RC&D/EDD.**

The IRP believes that open dialogue between groups can help build trust and clarify the niche in rural development that each organization can best fill. Members of Idaho's six Economic Development Districts and seven Resource Conservation and Development Councils met in 1994 to discuss similarities and differences, ways to avoid duplications, and ways to increase collaboration. An MOU was drafted by the IRP and signed by all parties. A number of joint EDD/RC&D projects have happened since.

✓ **Role Clarification - USDA-SCS/USBR.**

Senior staff of two federal agencies with complementary, but changing missions the Soil Conservation Service and Bureau of Reclamation met August 10, 1995 to coordinate issues where there are overlapping responsibilities. Irrigation water management, salmon restoration, wetland and riparian issues, and rural development were discussed in some detail to avoid duplication and increase collaboration. Follow-up assignments were made and subsequent meetings have been held.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2000[1]

Budget Period from 7/1/99 - 6/30/00

#	BUDGET ITEMS	Federal Budgeted	Federal Expended	Non-Federal Budgeted	Non-Federal Expended	Total Budgeted	Total Expended
1-2	Salary/Benefits: Executive Dir.	$75,500	$74,458	-	-	$75,500	$74,458
3	Salary/Benefits: Support Staff	5,200	5,924	$10,000	$10,325	15,200	16,248
4	SRDC Travel	18,000	11,447	1,000		19,000	11,447
5	Supplies & Services, Equipment	9,800	9,870	10,000	27,318	19,800	37,188
6	Office Space & Utilities	1,200	969	10,000	5,570	11,200	6,540
7	Training	2,000	1,699	-		2,000	1,699
8	Other						
	Contract Services	4,514	4,194	7,000	2795	11,514	6,989
	Meeting Expenses	3,000	1,243	2,000	225	5,000	1,468
	TOTAL	**$119,214**	**$109,803**	**$40,000**	**$46,223**	**$159,214**	**$156,037**

BUDGET ITEMS #1 - 8

	Total Expenditures	$109,803	$46,223	$156,037
	Total Unexpended ED Salary/Benefits (#1-2)	**$1,042**		
	Total Unexpended Fed. Operating Funds (#4-8)	**$8,369**		
	Total Expended as % of Total Exp.:	70.4%	29.6%	100%
9	Federal Member Travel	$0	$0	
	Total Unexpended		**$0**	

COUNCIL INNOVATION PROJECTS	Budget	Expenditures	Balance
Total 1994-1999 Innovation Funds Available	**$40,002**		**$40,002**
Building Common Ground Workshops	$3,000	$1,307	$1,693
Community Peer Exchange Fund	$5,000	$1,528	$3,472
Land Use Protection Workshops	$1,000	$1,000	$0
Gov's Task Force on Rural Development	$2,000	$0	$2,000
Internet Masters Curriculum	$2,000	$0	$2000
One Plan Website Remodel	$2,000	$2,000	$0
Idaho Community Review	$4,000	$542	$3,458
Harmony Workshop	$1,500	$0	$1,500
Unobligated Balance	$19,502	-	$19,502
Total 1994-99 Innovation Project Funds	**$40,002**	**$6,378**	**$33,625**

[1] This financial statement is unaudited.

Ø01 BUDGET

Budget Period from 7/1/00 - 6/30/2001

#	BUDGET ITEM	Federal Effort	Non-Federal Effort	Total Effort
1-2	Salary/Benefits: Executive Director	$79,000	-	$79,000
3	Salary/Benefits: Support Staff	8,100	$10,000	18,100
4	SRDC Travel	13,000	1,000	14,000
5	Supplies, Services, Publications	8,800	10,000	19,500
6	Office Space & Utilities	2,000	10,000	11,500
7	Training	1,000	-	1,000
8	Other			
	Contract Services	2,200	6,000	8,000
	Meeting Expenses	2,500	$2,000	4,500
	SUBTOTAL	$116,600	$39,000	$155,600
	BUDGET ITEMS #1 - 8			
	Total Budget	$116,600	$39,000	$155,600
	Total Budget as Percent of Total Expenditures:	74.9%	25.1%	100%
	FEDERAL MEMBER TRAVEL			
9	Total Federal Member Budget	$0	-	$0
	GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	**$116,600**	**$39,000**	**$155,600**

COUNCIL INNOVATION PROJECTS 2000 FUNDS	
2000 Unexpended Federal Operating Funds	$8,369
Total 2000 Innovation Project Funds	**$8,369**

2000 IRP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Includes 111 local community development corporations and 75 chambers of commerce, plus many local units of the following organizations:

Action, Idaho State Office
Albertson Foundation
American Red Cross
Association of Idaho Cities
Association of Idaho Counties
AVISTA Corporation
Bank of America
Bechtel BWXT Idaho
Birdsall & Associates
Boise Funding Information Center
Boise State University
Business Incubators (11)
Cambridge Telephone Company
Capital Matrix, Inc
Clearwater Economic Development Association
Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho
Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Consulting Engineers of Idaho
Council on Aging & Human Services
East-Central Idaho Planning & Development Assoc.
Environmental Finance Center
Family Safety Network
Fed Reserve Bank of San Francisco
First Security Bank
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Health Districts (4)
Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Bankers Association
Idaho Barley Commission
Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
Idaho Citizens Network
Idaho Co-Op Council
Idaho Commission on the Arts
Idaho Community Foundation
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Cooperative Extension System
Idaho Council on Industry & Environment
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Department of Administration
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Commerce
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare
Idaho Department of Labor
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council
Idaho Div. of Environmental Quality
Idaho Div. of Professional & Technical Education
Idaho Emergency Response Commission
Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands
Idaho Health Facilities Authority
Idaho Heritage Trust
Idaho Historical Society
Idaho Hospital Association
Idaho House of Representatives
Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Idaho Humanities Council
Idaho Industrial Commission
Idaho Office of Rural Health
Idaho Office on Aging
Idaho Power Company
Idaho Primary Care Association
Idaho Public Television
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Idaho RC&D Association (9)
Idaho Rural Council
Idaho Rural Water Association
Idaho Senate
Idaho Small Business Development Centers (6)
Idaho Smart Growth
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Idaho State Grange
Idaho State Library
Idaho State University
Idaho Transportation Department
Idaho Water Users Association
Idaho Wildlife Federation
IMAGE de Idaho
INEEL
Intermountain Forest Industry Assoc.
Intermountain Gas
JR Simplot Company
Key Bank of Idaho
Kootenai Tribe
Lewis-Clark State College
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Mountain States Group
National Agriculture Statistics Service
National Forests (8)
National & Community Service Commission
Neighborhood Housing Service
Nez Perce Tribe
Northwest Area Foundation
Northwest Band of Shoshoni
Office of Rep. Helen Chenoweth
Office of Rep. Mike Simpson
Office of Senator. Michael Crapo
Office of Senator Larry Craig
Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne
Pacificorp Electric Operations
Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute
Panhandle Area Council
Paradigm Consulting
Qwest Communications
Region IV Development Association
Rural Community Assistance Corp.
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
Solutia, Inc.
Steele-Reese Foundation
Sustainable Northwest
The Idaho Company
Tom Hudson Company
University of Idaho
US Bancorp
US Bureau of Indian Affairs
US Bureau of Land Management
US Bureau of Reclamation
US Corps of Engineers
US Department of Health & Human Services
US Dept of Housing & Urban Development
US Economic Development Administration
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Federal Highway administration
US Veterans Administration
US National Park Service
US Small Business Administration
USDA Farm Services Agency
USDA Forest Service Regions 1 & 4
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Rural Development
VGA Enterprises
Washington Mutual Bank

2001 IRP CALENDAR

April 1-4	NRDP Annual Washington, DC Conference
April 9	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward Boise - Holiday Inn
April 10	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward Twin Falls - Cavanaugh's Inn
April 11	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward – Idaho Falls – Shilo Inn
April 12	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward – Pocatello – Holiday Inn
April 23	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward Lewiston – Red Lion Inn
April 24	Spring Community Forum: Moving Idaho Forward Coeur d'Alene – Coeur d'Alene Inn
April 25-26	Hayden Community Review: *Taking a Good Look at Our Town*
May 9-10	IRP Board of Directors Strategic Planning Meeting Riggins Salmon Rapids Best Western
May 16-17	Kooskia Community Review: *Taking a Good Look at Our Town*
June 21-22	IRP Quarterly Meeting, Montpelier - **CANCELLED** at the National Oregon/California Trail Center
July 22-25	NRDP Leadership Conference, Duluth, MN in combination with Community Development Society Annual Meeting and Minnesota Rural Summit
September 20-21	IRP Quarterly Meeting, Bonners Ferry, **CANCELLED** with Kootenai Tribe & Boundary County
December 7	IRP 11th Annual Meeting

Idaho Rural Partnership
Richard L. Gardner, Ph.D., Executive Director
317 W. Main St.
Boise, ID 83735
(208) 334-6113 or (800) 334-3195
Fax (208) 334-6118
E-Mail dgardner@labor.state.id.us
Web site www.labor.state.id.us/irp/

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